Extension of West Asian Gas Grid

967. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have suggested to the United Arab Emirates that the gas grid of West Asia be extended to South Asia;

(b) if so, whether this suggestion came during meetings with a visiting high-level UAE delegation;

(c) whether the suggestion has been approved by the UAE; and

(d) if so, to what extent it 1 will be helpful for India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Acquisition of land for oil exploration

968. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:
SHRI R. KAMRAJ:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large area of agricultural land belonging to poor agriculturists has been acquired by Government for oil exploration activities all over the country;

(b) whether full compensation has been paid to them by Government;

(c) if so, the details of compensation paid by Government during the last three years so far, State-wise; and

(d) if not, by when compensation will be paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Oil Exploration and Production companies, namely Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture (J.V.) companies, acquire land, including agricultural land, from

the land-owners for exploration and production of hydrocarbons, as and when required. Compensation is paid by these companies to the land-owners as per the prevailing Government rates and legal requirements.

(b) to (d) Compensations have accordingly been paid by ONGC, OIL and Private/J.V. companies to the affected agriculturists. The details of State-wise compensation paid during the last three years, i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, are reported to be as follows:

State	(Amount in Rs. Lakh)
Andhra Pradesh	577.17
Tamil Nadu	155.17
Assam	310.06
Gujarat	3174.44
Rajasthan	67.02
Maharashtra	5.89
Tripura	161.36
West Bengal	34.72
UP and Uttaranchal	31.37

New oil wells at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

† 969. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan of digging new wells in Kharpas area of Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan due to availability of oil in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether high quality Gas resources of Kharpas are being utilised in abundance by Gabber Sui Gas Field, Pakistan which is near the Indian territory; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.